Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method, comprising:

cutting a brake pad backing plate out of a sheet having a plurality of discontinuities formed therein.

2. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of cutting a brake pad backing plate out of a sheet comprises cutting a brake pad backing plate out of a sheet having a plurality of protrusions formed therein.

3. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of cutting a brake pad backing plate out of a sheet comprises cutting a brake pad backing plate out of a sheet having a plurality of channels formed therein.

4. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of cutting a brake pad backing plate out of a sheet comprises cutting a brake pad backing plate out of a sheet having respective pluralities of channels and protrusions formed therein.

5. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of:

forming the discontinuities in the sheet during a sheet manufacturing process.

6. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of:

forming the discontinuities in the sheet during a sheet rolling process.

7. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of cutting a brake pad backing plate out of a sheet comprises stamping a brake pad backing plate out of a sheet having a plurality of discontinuities formed therein.

8. (Original) A method of manufacturing a brake pad, comprising:

cutting a brake pad backing plate out of a sheet having a plurality of discontinuities formed therein; and

securing a friction pad to the brake pad backing plate.

9. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the step of cutting a brake pad backing plate out of a sheet comprises cutting a brake pad backing plate out of a sheet having a plurality of protrusions formed therein.

10. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the step of cutting a brake pad backing plate out of a sheet comprises cutting a brake pad backing plate out of a sheet having a plurality of channels formed therein.

11. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the step of cutting a brake pad backing plate out of a sheet comprises cutting a brake pad backing plate out of a sheet having respective pluralities of channels and protrusions formed therein.

12. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising the step of:

forming the discontinuities in the sheet during a sheet manufacturing process.

13. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising the step of:

forming the discontinuities in the sheet during a sheet rolling process.

14. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the step of securing a friction pad to the brake pad backing plate comprises molding the friction pad onto the brake pad backing plate such that a mechanical interconnect is created between the friction pad and the brake pad backing plate.

15. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the step of cutting a brake pad backing plate out of a sheet comprises stamping a brake pad backing plate out of a sheet having a plurality of discontinuities formed therein.

16. (Currently Amended) A brake pad backing plate, comprising:

a base member; and

a plurality of protrusions extending outwardly ~~form~~ from the base member, at least a portion of at least one of the protrusions defining a slanted parallelepiped shape.

17. (Original) A brake pad backing plate as claimed in claim 16, wherein at least a portion of each of the protrusions defines a slanted, parallelepiped shape.

18. (Original) A brake pad backing plate as claimed in claim 16, wherein less than all of the at least one protrusions defines a slanted, parallelepiped shape.

19. (Original) A brake pad backing plate as claimed in claim 16, wherein the protrusions are evenly spaced.

20. (Original) A brake pad backing plate as claimed in claim 16, wherein the slanted, parallelepiped shape slants in two directions.

21. (Original) A brake pad backing plate as claimed in claim 16, wherein the slanted, parallelepiped shape slants in two directions that are perpendicular to one another.

22. (Original) A brake pad backing plate as claimed in claim 16, wherein the base member defines a front surface and the protrusions extend outwardly from the front surface of the base member.

23. (Original) A brake pad backing plate as claimed in claim 16, wherein the base member front surface is substantially planar.

24. (Currently Amended) A brake pad, comprising:

a brake pad backing plate including a plurality of protrusions extending outwardly ~~form~~ from the base member, at least a portion of at least one of the protrusions defining a slanted parallelepiped shape; and

a friction pad secured to brake pad by the plurality of protrusions.

25. (Original) A brake pad as claimed in claim 24, wherein at least a portion of each of the protrusions defines a slanted, parallelepiped shape.

26. (Original) A brake pad as claimed in claim 24, wherein less than all of the at least one protrusion defines a slanted, parallelepiped shape.

27. (Original) A brake pad as claimed in claim 24, wherein the protrusions are evenly spaced.

28. (Original) A brake pad as claimed in claim 24, wherein the slanted, parallelepiped shape slants in two directions.

29. (Original) A brake pad as claimed in claim 24, wherein the slanted, parallelepiped shape slants in two directions that are perpendicular to one another.

30. (Original) A brake pad as claimed in claim 24, wherein the base member defines a front surface and the protrusions extend outwardly from the front surface of the base member.

31. (Original) A brake pad as claimed in claim 24, wherein the base member front surface is substantially planar.